

Rec'd

27 MAY 2003

10/556823

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP02/12492

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ D05C15/22, 15/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ D05C15/00-15/36

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1940-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2003
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-1995	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2003

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A Y	US 2961983 A (James Lees and Sons Co.), 29 November, 1960 (29.11.60), Column 2, lines 17 to 26; Fig. 2 (Family: none)	1, 2 3
A Y	US 4549496 A (Fabrication Center, Inc.), 29 October, 1985 (29.10.85), Column 9, lines 24 to 32; Figs. 4, 5 & JP 61-501462 A Page 7, upper right column, line 17 to lower left column, line 2 & WO 85/04197 A & EP 175755 A & AU 4112985 A & AU 586423 A	1, 2 3

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
24 January, 2003 (24.01.03)Date of mailing of the international search report
12 February, 2003 (12.02.03)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A Y	US 1993862 A (Waite Carpet Co.), 12 March, 1935 (12.03.35), Page 2, left column, line 65 to right column, line 36; Figs. 4 to 10 (Family: none)	1,2 3
A Y	JP 2001-200465 A (Brother Industries, Ltd.), 27 July, 2001 (27.07.01), Column 13, lines 7 to 32; Fig. 12 (Family: none)	1,2 3
Y	JP 10-113492 A (Yamato Mishin Seizo Kabushiki Kaisha), 06 May, 1998 (06.05.98), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	3
A	JP 7-144081 A (Brother Industries, Ltd.), 06 June, 1995 (06.06.95), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	3
A	US 3771478 A (Union Special Corp.), 13 November, 1973 (13.11.73), Full text; all drawings & JP 54-39787 B2 & DE 2331966 A & FR 2191566 A & GB 1431345 A & IT 986240 A	3

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1-3 are common to each other in that they relate to a flocking machine having a needle with a thread inserted in a needle hole and moving up and down through the upper and lower surfaces of a base fabric, and a hook shaft; this point, however, is a known arrangement in the flocking machine, not a special technical feature. And it is deemed that a special technical feature resides in the thread cutting mechanism for claims 1 and 2 and the rotary vane body for claim 3.

A common matter that is thought to be a special technical feature defined in PCT Rule 13. 2 cannot exist between the thread cutting and the rotary vane body; thus, no technical linkage in the sense of PCT Rule 13 can be found.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.